

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume #17, October–November, 2004

Iraqi Coastal Defence Force Launch

Medals for the Hero

The U.S. Colonel Took After His Father

ANA's First HQs Begin Operations

Enduring Support to Afghanistan

Greek Force within ISAF, a Strong Contributor

Another Great Contribution To World Peace



THE COALITION EDITORIAL BOARD:

New Zealand  **Brig. Gen. Neville Reilly**
Chairman

France  **Col. Frank Le Bot**
Romania  **Cmdr. Ciprian Lungu**
Germany  **Cmdr. Ralf Menden**
Canada  **Cmdr. Ian Swain**
Pakistan  **Lt. Col. Nusrat Ali**
Italy  **Lt. Col. Felice Rossi**
Spain  **Maj. Alfonso Lorenzo Taloadá**
Hungary  **Maj. Geza Boros-Lesko**
Slovenia  **Maj. Matjaz Bizjak**
USA  **Maj. Kevin O'Neill**
Committee

COALITION BULLETIN STAFF:

Ukraine  **Maj. Oleksiy Andriushyn**
Editor-in-chief

New Zealand  **Lt. Col. Harold Cockburn**
Azerbaijan  **Maj. Nameddin Karimov**
USA  **Petty Officer Joe Vermette**
Editorial Staff

Jordan  **Maj. Ahmad Al Lawama**
Arabic Translation

Editor's Note

By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the *Coalition Bulletin* is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Security Assistance Force. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

Cover photo: Two Iraqi Coastal Defense Force soldiers celebrate the launch of the Coastal Defense Force (see story on [page 2](#)). Photos submitted by British Forces Press Information Centre.

The views expressed in the *Coalition Bulletin* cannot be attributed to any one nation. They are items considered newsworthy by the volunteers from various nations that make up the Public Awareness Working Group (PAWG). Contributions from all Coalition countries are encouraged. All contributors to the *Coalition Bulletin* are responsible for adhering to PAWG policy pertaining to the accuracy and copyright laws in the content they provide.

For questions concerning PAWG policy, contact the *Coalition Bulletin* editor at +1 (813) 827-1716, or write to us at cofpublicaffairs@yahoo.com. For an electronic copy of the *Coalition Bulletin*, visit: www.centcom.mil

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **HAWG Delivers Assistance to Theater.....1**
- **Iraqi Coastal Defence Force Launch.....2**
- **Medals for the Hero.....3**
The U.S. Colonel Took After His Father
- **ANA's First HQs Begin Operations.....4**
- **Abizaid Visits Italy's JTF Iraq....4**
- **Weapons Seized in the Dhi Qar Province.....4**
- **Azerbaijan Soldiers Secure Safety of Dam.....5**
- **Enduring Support to Afghanistan.....6**
Greek Force within ISAF, a Strong Contributor
- **Korean Medics Run Taekwondo Class.....7**
- **Air Force Engineers Build Up, Improve Bagram.....8**
- **Ramadan Presents Solemn, Spiritual Time.....9**
- **Another Great Contribution To World Peace.....10**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We cannot simply suspend or restrict civil liberties until the war on terror is over because the war on terror is unlikely ever to be truly over. Sept. 11, 2001, already a day of immeasurable tragedy, cannot be the day liberty perished in this country."

— Judge Gerald Tjoflat

Editorial

Land operations in Afghanistan and Iraq tend to get the majority of media attention, however, the continuing maritime operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom should not be forgotten, as they also play an important role in the Global War on Terrorism.



Brig.-Gen. Neville Reilly, NZ

The Coalition was reminded of the ongoing maritime operations being undertaken when a Maritime Force Generation Conference was held at CENTCOM recently under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom's Commodore Paul Robinson, Deputy Coalition Joint Force Maritime Component Commander. The main aim of the conference was to discuss future individual country contributions to maritime operations. The conference also provided an opportunity for the Coalition to be reminded of the achievements to date.

Task Force (TF) 150 patrols an area some two million square miles, ranging from the Red Sea to the Eastern Arabian Sea. It is one of the busiest shipping regions in the world, with much of the world's crude oil being transported across it.

The threat from terrorists at sea cannot be ignored, and might involve threats to commercial shipping, damage to oil infrastructure, and the smuggling of people and weapons. Commercial shipping can be an easy target for terrorists, and could result in disruption to industrialized nations. The presence of the TF 150 fleet has done much to deter such terrorist action.

Fourteen nations have provided ships to TF 150, and France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK and the US have exercised command at different times. Not only do ships of TF 150 work together, some also exercise with the maritime forces of the countries in the region. In this way the capacities of countries in the region are improved, assisting them in their own ongoing efforts to combat terrorism. The ongoing operations by TF 150 are also helping to refine doctrine for Maritime Counter terrorism Operations.

The Coalition Bulletin has previously contained articles by individual countries outlining their individual contributions to maritime operations in TF 150. It is timely to thank collectively all contributing nations for their ongoing efforts.

Neville Reilly

Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman
Public Awareness Working Group



Coalition Fact

One hundred Iraqi soldiers and police officers will be trained in the Czech Republic next year, said Czech's Military Chief of General Staff, Pavel Stefka. The Defense Ministry plans to earmark 20 million koruna (635,000 euros, 800,000 dollars) for the training.




Donations of humanitarian assistance and other supplies badly needed by the nations within the CENTCOM area of responsibility are continuously being offered to assist those in need. The Humanitarian Assistance Working Group or (HAWG) is in place to address any and all issues pertaining to humanitarian issues in the AOR and between the coalition members. In many cases, countries within the coalition are generously donating and delivering many tons of valuable supplies into the region. This is augmented by the work of countless Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working within the region.

Some regions do not have easy and safe access for the delivery of goods by conventional military or routine commercial means. Any delays in the delivery of essential supplies to those most in need is one of the reasons why the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group exists.

As challenges in accessing some of the less secure regions arise, coalition nations, through the HAWG, are asked to lend assistance. In some cases nations are working in specific regions and do not have easy access to these specific areas. Some even lack the specialized transportation resources required to move the humanitarian assistance shipments. The HAWG is tasked to address these issues by brokering arrangements to move large shipments into the region and between nations within the coalition.

In almost every case, coalition members are asked to work with each other to overcome some of these difficulties. In many cases, this involves numerous bilateral discussions amongst nations. The goal of the working group, in the short term, is to develop procedures to identify ways and means of moving supplies quickly and economically into the region. Military airlift remains at a premium, but often there is limited space available on flights into the region.

The Working Group is striving to make use of this valuable space on a space available basis. In addition, there are a small number of commercial companies capable of delivering to some of the essential areas. A further challenge faced by the group is to acquire funding for such commercial deliveries. In order to meet the shipping requirements in a more expeditious manner, the Working Group is requesting any nation, company or organization with the capacity to help resolve some of the resource challenges to contact the HAWG through the Bulletin's editorial staff. 



Iraqi Coastal Defence Force Launch

The Iraqi Coastal Defence Force (ICDF) was officially launched last month at the port of Umm Qasr, Southern Iraq. The ceremony marked the completion of the first phase of the rebuilding of the ICDF, and the commencement of limited operations in support of protecting Iraq's maritime sovereignty. The ceremony included a sail past by the fleet and saluting of the dais of VIP's before continuing out to sea.

The ICDF was formed in January 2004 and trained by a 48-strong team primarily made up of Royal Navy & Royal Marines, with additional members from the Australian Navy, US Navy and Netherlands Navy. This team, known as the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT) is commanded by Captain Colin Welborn Royal Navy, who arrived in Southern Iraq in July 2004.

The CMATT has been involved in rebuilding the Iraqi Maritime Forces, which were non-existent after ten years of isolation and destruction during the Iraq war of 2003. This team has trained the ICDF in operating five, 27 metre patrol boats and other small vessels.

Specific training has been provided in seamanship, mariner skills, fire-fighting, damage control, engineering casualty control drills, planned maintenance, search and rescue, whole ship management, gunnery and boarding operations. Additional training was conducted on International law, law of the sea and operations planning



Story and photos by
British Forces
Press Information Centre

On photos: during the launch ceremony.

and execution. During the training, the CMATT were also responsible for providing force protection, and for conducting convoys through southern Iraq and Kuwait.

This launch signifies the first phase of the rehabilitation of the ICDF, and an operational rebuilding phase that will see the ICDF assuming responsibility for the protection

of the country's maritime sovereignty. This will include the protection of offshore installations at Basrah and Khawr al Amaya oil terminals, port of Umm Qasr, and the port of Az Zubayr. This infrastructure generates between 85-90% of Iraq's total gross domestic product and is of strategic and economic importance for the future of Iraq.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from coalition Naval Commands and senior Iraqi military. Capt Ballasm (Commander ICDF) spoke at the ceremony and thanked the Coalition for all its help in establishing the foundations of Iraq's Coastal Defence Force over the past months.

He also stated that "The students had proved their ability to absorb and un-



derstand their training. They hope to go on to serve their beloved Iraq and its people".

This achievement of an initial operational capability by the ICDF has been an extremely successful endeavour and one that can be held as a successful example, of the positive presence, the coalition is providing in Iraq.

The CMATT has been instrumental in this success thereby directly contributing to the continued rehabilitation of the Iraqi Forces. ^{CB}

The ICDF will commence its first independent operation on 1 October 2004 including patrolling the KAA (Khawr Abd Allah), protection of the offshore installations and the port of Umm Qasr in Southern Iraq.





Medals for the Hero

Another sultry November day of 2003 in the province of Wasit in eastern Iraq was coming to an end. A convoy of several Ukrainian APCs and light trucks, led by the former Multi-National Division "Center-South" Deputy Commander for Force Protection Ukrainian Lieutenant-General Anatolii Sobora, was slowly moving in the dark along a dusty country road. U.S. Colonel Roland J. Tiso Jr., the CJTF-7 Senior Liaison Officer and Advisor to the MND-CS Commander, was also riding on the armor of an APC, monitoring the action.

Suddenly the convoy was ambushed with small-arms enemy fire. With blazing speed, the troops hopped off the vehicles and took up an all-round defense. Nip and tuck with Ukrainian brothers in arms with an assault rifle in his hand, Colonel Tiso repelled the assault of the insurgents.

This fusion, solidarity of two peoples in a fight with a common "clear and present danger", had already taken place more than half-century



The U.S. Colonel Took After His Father

ago during World War II, at the link-up on the Elbe. Colonel Tiso heard a lot about that from his father, who ended that war near Torgau, Germany with a high U.S. military award.

In almost 60 years his son felt out that cohesion again. And this feeling was extremely intensive. The insurgents' attack was repelled with no losses, while in a couple of months on Christmas Eve instead of going home to the United States, Colonel Tiso stayed to celebrate this holiday with Ukrainians on the Iraq-Iran border.

For his inspired bravery, as well as for great assistance to the Ukrainian peacekeepers in Iraq, anon Col. Roland J. Tiso was awarded the highest military decoration of Ukraine, the Order of Valor and Honor. Shortly after Christmas

Eve the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine flew to Iraq to personally present Colonel Tiso with the medal. But



it happened that by that time Col. Tiso had returned to the United States.

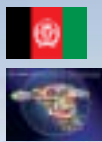
Bulgarian Medal For Faithful Service Under the Colors 2nd Degree didn't decorate the colonel's breast timely as well. The government of the Republic of Bulgaria awarded him a decoration for great help to Bulgarian Mechanized Battalion, and particularly, for wide support of Bulgarian troops after the tragic events of December 27,

2003, the black day in Bulgarian history of peacekeeping, when the blast of two truck-bombs (Vehicle-Born Improvised Explosive Devices) next to Bulgarian barracks at Camp India took the lives of 6 soldiers and wounded 26. The generous and sincere sympathy and support of an experienced officer meant a lot to the Bulgarian peacekeepers.

The only international medal for the Iraqi war, which decorated the colonel's "alpha"-uniform in time, was a medal from the Armed Forces of Poland.

But, as it is fairly said, medals always find their heroes. Within the last couple of months the DoD Contract Planner in the Intelligence Directorate of U.S. Central Command, recently retired U.S. Colonel Roland J. Tiso Jr. was solemnly presented with deserved awards in the Coalition Coordination Center auditorium. Senior National Representatives of Bulgaria and Ukraine in CCC by USCENTCOM Col. Dimitar Dimitrov and Maj. Gen. Petro Haraschuk congratulated Colonel Tiso with the awards and expressed a heartfelt gratitude for incredible assistance and support, which won the hearts and minds of foreign militaries. CB





ANA's First HQs Begin Operations

Story and photo by Col. Randy Pullen,
Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan



Gardez Colors: Maj. Gen. Walizada (right), commanding general of the ANA's 203 Corps, salutes the Afghan National Colors being presented to him by Afghan Defense Minister Fahim Khan at the Gardez Regional Command activation.

The Afghan National Army stood up its first regional command headquarters outside the Kabul area in Kandahar.

A second opened in Gardez. Combined, these two regional commands, and the others that will follow in Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat, mark a milestone step for the general security of Afghanistan

and for the strengthening of the Afghan national government.

The standing up of the regional commands marks the permanent ANA presence in the four regions of Afghanistan, clearly demonstrating to the Afghan people and to the international community that the Afghan national government's authority extends throughout the nation. The Kandahar Regional Com-

mand has been designated 205 Corps, and will be called Atal (Hero) Corps. Its commander is ANA Maj. Gen. Muslim, who goes by only one name.

The Gardez Regional Command has been designated the 203 Corps, and nicknamed the "Thunder Corps." This

command is led by ANA Maj. Gen. Walizada, who goes by only one name.

"This grand opening of the Atal (Hero) Corps is a sign of great success in the Afghan National Army," said Fahim Khan, Afghan minister of defense, at the opening in Kandahar. "Following the opening of the Central Corps, this demonstrates the vigorous

progress of the ANA. Now that the Central Corps has been completed at Kabul, there will be regional commands in four of Afghanistan's provinces. The Kandahar Regional Command is the first. I am very proud of this grand opening."

From now on, the green berets of the ANA soldiers will be a permanent presence in the areas, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan chief.

Those green berets mark a professional, disciplined army that will defeat the threats to Afghan freedom, they stand as a force of good that helps the people and they represent a national army of and for all the peoples of Afghanistan.

"The green berets are a symbol of the future of Afghanistan," he said. [CB](#)



Abizaid Visits Italy's JTF Iraq

Commander of the US Central Command Gen. John Abizaid visited the Italian Joint Task Force in Iraq (IT JTF IRAQ).

Gen. Abizaid landed at the Talil Airport and moved to Camp Mittica, main base of the Friuli Air Brigade where he met with the IT JTF Commander Brig. Gen. Enzo Stefanini.

Officers of the Tactical Operation Centre (TOC) briefed the USCENTCOM Commander on the detailed operational activities in the Dhi Qar province, and particularly in Nassirya.



Gen. Abizaid commented that notwithstanding Iraq is a difficult theatre to operate in; the cohesion among Italian, Romanian, and Portuguese allies has facilitated the solution to most of the problems in the area.

After enjoying the Italian cuisine, Gen. Abizaid and his staff left the base to return to USCENTCOM HQs. [CB](#)



Weapons Seized in the Dhi Qar Province

In the beginning of October a complex operation took place in all the major centers of Dhi Qar province. Effective intelligence exploitation allowed the Italian Joint Task Force Iraq patrols to locate a huge amount of weapons and munitions hidden in a temporary cache. "A threat to the Italian soldiers and to the civil population has been avoided", said Italian contingent commander Brig Gen Enzo Stefanini.

The "Gathering Security" operation resulted in the confiscation of one 120mm mortar and 22 rounds, four 83mm mortars and 129 rounds, four 60mm



anti personnel mines and one anti ship mine. All the weapons were in good condition and ready to use for IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices).

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the Piave Task Force operating side by side with Task Force Desert Five exploded part of the munitions. Operation "Gathering Security" involved 400 personnel through a coordinated effort in Nassirya, Suq As Shuyukh and Ar Rifaj. [CB](#)



Azerbaijan Soldiers

Secure Safety of Dam

ALASAD – A multinational force led by soldiers from Azerbaijan guard the Haditha Dam located in western Iraq. Azerbaijani soldiers guarding the dam are an example of the international effort making Iraq safer and more secure.

The second iteration of Azerbaijani soldiers guarding the dam is currently handing control of the dam over to the third group of soldiers.

“The 60-day rotation plan is part of the normal plan to ensure maximum security at the dam,” said 1st Lt. Glenn Page, an officer assigned to 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “I’ve been working with the Azerbaijani soldiers for six months and they have been a fantastic asset for us,” said Page. “We haven’t had a single negative incident at the Haditha Dam on their watch.”

The Haditha Dam generates electrical power for the majority of Iraqi citizens in the Al Anbar region. Located on the western side of the country, it is the largest dam on the Euphrates River.

Approximately 300 Iraqi citizens work as full time employees at the dam maintaining its electrical output. The dam is an essential element to the Al Anbar region’s economic development, according to Page.

Azerbaijan, a former state in the Soviet Union, gained its independence in the early 1990s. Bordering the countries Iran, Turkey and Georgia, Azerbaijan has become a staunch ally of the U.S.-led war on terrorism. The company-size group of

Story by Sgt. Joe Healy,
82nd Public Affairs Office



On photos: Azerbaijan soldiers guard the Haditha Dam in western Iraq.

Azerbaijani soldiers stationed at the Haditha Dam has a number of responsibilities according to the Page: they conduct presence patrols, secure the front gate, and search Iraqi employees.

“They work independently from us,” said Page. “Although we are in constant communication with their chain-of-command, they to accomplish the mission with little help from us.”

Many of the Azerbaijani soldiers stationed at the Haditha Dam have worked with U.S. soldiers before, according to Capt. Fuad Mamedov, the company commander of the second iteration of Azerbaijan soldiers guarding the dam.

“I worked in Kosovo with U.S. soldiers before coming to Iraq,” said Mamedov. “We are successful in Kosovo and we are working hard here everyday to duplicate that success.”


months ago.

“I am very proud of my soldiers the work we’ve done at the Haditha Dam,” said Mamedov. “Our soldiers are on the 24 hours per day. We were told to protect the dam, we have done well the last 60 days.”

Mamedov said that his company’s greatest challenge here is scrutinizing the 300 Iraqi personnel employed at the dam as they come to work. The employees are searched every day. Iraq and Azerbaijan share similar religious faiths. Both nations are home to a mostly Muslim populace.

We make a clear distinction between our military and religious duties, said Mamedov. “We are soldiers first. We put our military duty first when we are deployed in Iraq.”

Mamedov said that some Iraqi dam workers tried to use their Muslim heritage to make friendly connection with Azerbaijani soldiers. “My soldiers kept the relationship very professional and military,” said Mamedov.

Mamedov said we thing that he’ll remember most about guarding the Haditha Dam is working with U.S. Soldiers the day Saddam Hussein was captured. “It was a great moment to be here working with U.S. Soldiers,” said Mamedov. “Everybody was excited. It will be something I’ll never forget.” 



Mamedov, 28, stands with a straits back and looks directly into his soldiers’ eyes when speaking to them. His deep voice commands his soldiers’ attention. He speaks near perfect English even though he began studying it only six



Enduring Support to Afghanistan



Greek Force within ISAF, a Strong Contributor

Story by
Brig. Gen. Christos Militsis,
Hellenic Army



Pediatric treatment for the students of the Abdul Reheed School in Kabul.

Right after the terrorist attacks of September 11th in New York, Greece was one of the first countries to immediately respond to the request from the USA to create a coalition of willing nations, with the aim of combating terrorism (OEF).

Moreover, Greece was one of the first nations to respond to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1386/2001, for the establishment of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF).

ISAF deployed into Kabul, Afghanistan in early

2002, with the mission to restore and maintain a security environment, in order to allow that country, under a provisional administration, to proceed to democratic elections.

The Hellenic Force, integrated into ISAF, was established in January 2002 and its first echelon deployed to Kabul in February of that year. **Hellenic Force in Afghanistan (HFA)** task organization includes a Hellenic Army Engineer company, with a specific composition and the principal mission to execute – maintain – repair infrastructure works, and provide services of social benefit. The personnel of this mis-

sion rotate periodically, every 3 or 6 months.

In addition, there are two Liaison Officers serving on the ISAF Staff, while another two officers have been made available as Air

Actually, HFA includes an Engineer company and support – security teams of a total strength of 122 men, 56 vehicles, and 18 Engineer machines. In

Controllers at the Kabul International Airport. With effect from August 2002, a C-130 transport aircraft of the Hellenic Air Force has been allocated to conduct airlifts, operating from bases in Greece. Also, Greece intends to undertake the command of Kabul International Airport (KAIA), as framework nation, for a four-month period.

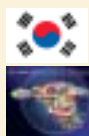
To date, HFA has been actively involved in the following activities for the reconstruction of Afghanistan:

- Provision of Humanitarian Aid
- Provision of medical and pharmaceutical supplies
- Provision of medical support
- Reconstruction of

July 2002	- Provision of 1000 fresh food rations and sports equipment to a school in Kabul - Provision of pediatric treatment for the students of the Abdul Reheed School in Kabul
March 2003	- Offer of two general-purpose vehicles (M/S 290 GD) to the Government of Afghanistan - Provision of clothing and pharmaceutical material to a hospital in Kabul
May 2003	- Reconstruction – widening of the “DESPERADO” route of a total length of 4 km in the area of the airport of Kabul - Participation in earthmoving and road improvement works in various sectors of the area of operations
June 2003	- Offer of 1000 books and of school stationery, and of 800 dry food rations to schools in Kabul
October 2003	- Reconstruction of a primary school in the Pol-e-Charkie area in the outskirts of Kabul
November 2003	- Construction of the water supply network and of sewage works in its zone of responsibility
February 2004	- Offer of 2 tons of medical supplies to the maternity hospital of Kabul - Construction of high guard-towers within the headquarters of ISAF
April 2004	- Construction of the main gate of CAMP “INVICTIA”, in cooperation with the Italian Engineers - Provision of humanitarian aid, including 3000 blouses, 200 pairs of shoes, 1000 school books, and 2700 dry food rations to orphanages in Kabul - Construction of three heavy weapons assembly areas (DDR program)
May 2004	- Construction of a permanent bridge, and repair of two others within the area of Kabul
June 2004	- Reconstruction and fortification of the Pass guardhouse - Training of ANA in Signals-related topics
	- Placement of aircraft spare-part warehousing tents in the airport of Kabul
	- Execution of earthmoving works to improve the United Nations warehouses’ area



Construction of fortification works for ISAF camps.



Korean Medics Run Taekwondo Class

Story and photos by
Maj. Kim Bong Young,
Korean Engineer Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The Korean Medical Support Group, which has been contributing to Coalition forces and local nationals with humanitarian medical practice, is now running a Taekwondo class to share the spirit of Korean traditional martial arts.



Korean soldiers demonstrate some advanced Taekwondo techniques.

To celebrate the start of the class, Coalition members and local children gathered for a ceremony at the Korean Engineer Group parade field.

“Through Taekwondo I shared the root of the Korean spiritual strength and the characteristic courtesy (of the Koreans),” said Maj. Gerald S. Nall, one participant in the class from the 109th Engineer Group, Combined Task Force Coyote. His interest in this class, like many other Coalition participants, stemmed from a desire to learn more about the Korean culture.

Taekwondo is not only a way to introduce Korean culture, but it also gives unbreakable strength of mind and body that could give hope to the children of Afghanistan who have suffered from the ruins of war, said Korean Lt. Col. Yoon Sang Rok, Korean Med. Spt. Grp. commander.

The classes will be take place three times a week at the Clamshell on Bagram Air Base. Three instructors, including Korean Cpl. Won Bum Jang, a third-grade black belt, will share their

knowledge of Pum Sae with both the Coalition and local children. Pum Sae is a combination of several types of Taekwondo. These classes will continue throughout the redeployment of the 6th Korean Medical Support Group. **CB**



Soldiers also demonstrate a take-down move.



Distribution of books, stationery and dry food to schools in Kabul.

schools

- Construction of roads – bridges
- Construction of technical services support buildings in the airport of Kabul
- Reinforcement of security measures in military camps
- Training of Afghan military (ANA) in Signals-related skills
- Reconnaissance of road viability
- Construction of various types of fortification works for ISAF camps

Additionally, Greek airplanes have transported Egyptian, Romanian, Swiss, Albanian and Greek donations to Kabul, Afghanistan. Moreover, the transport of Greek humanitarian aid is underway from Athens to Kabul including: 15 tons of blankets, military clothing, and medical-pharmaceutical supplies worth approximately US \$ 200000. This humanitarian aid is to be freighted to Kabul with the assistance of US Air

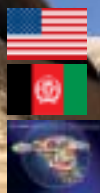
Mobility Command, and will be distributed by the HFA before the outbreak of winter.

Greece actively participates in the dialogue between the donor nations and organizations, and the Afghans. The Hellenic contribution aims (in cooperation with the international community) at improving the living standards of the Afghan people, in particular in fighting the poverty that affects the more vulnerable parts of the population. The year 2001 saw the humanitarian aid from Greece to Afghanistan reach the sum of US \$ 1 million. For the period 2002-2004, Greece has assumed the commitment to provide development assistance of a sum of €5 million. An additional sum of €3 million will be allocated in the period 2005 – 2007.

Greece is determined to continue offering its services to the Afghan people, by the way of HFA, within the limits of its capacity and in accordance with the new enlarged mission of ISAF. **CB**

Reconstruction: Widening of the “DESPERADO” route to the airport of Kabul.





Air Force Engineers Build Up, Improve Bagram

Story and photos by
Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey,
455th Expeditionary Operations Group



Air Force Master Sgt. Charmaine Regelman uses a bull float to smooth out a newly poured concrete pad at Bagram Air Base.

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Air Force Airman 1st Class Aaron McDonald calls to the air control tower from his truck radio for clearance to enter the runway. His mission: break up five different 24-inch squares of damaged sections of the runway and put them back together again before the next A-10 jet or any of the cargo aircraft take off. He has less than an hour to clear each one. Each damaged section repaired is one less safety hazard the pilots have to keep in mind during their take-offs and landings.

Jack-hammers, generators and screwdrivers may seem out of place when talking about a flightline, but keeping the aircraft flying is the number one priority for the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group Civil Engineer Flight at Bagram Air Base.

Each heavy equipment operator, structures craftsman, power production and electrical technician deployed to Bagram Air Base is called upon to fill a role for Operation Enduring Freedom that differs from the mission they conduct back at home station. Here, it's all about keep-

ing the aircraft flying — whether it's through runway repairs or rehanging a B-hut door.

"It's a running joke for us — every time we fix a door hinge, we say we're keeping the A-10s flying. But, the truth is, we are in a round-about way, because if a broken door is keeping a pilot from sleeping, it could become a flight safety issue," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Ricky Johnson, heavy equipment journeyman.

Serving at

Bagram differs from working back at home base in many ways for the CE folks here. McDonald who, back at his home station of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, would call a contractor to repair the runway — a dirty and tedious job, as Johnson described it — has found his niche in doing runway repairs himself.



Members of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group Civil Engineer Flight work together to prepare concrete.

"I love being out there on the runway," said the Airman from Kilgore, Texas. "From the minute I begin jack-hammering, to the next minute when I get a call from air control telling me I have to rush off of the runway to allow aircraft to come in or fly out."

Some jobs are contracted out, such as plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning functions. But even without these responsibilities, civil engineers maintain a full daily schedule doing jobs unique to contin-


gencies. Within the team's first couple of weeks here it has already repaired 41 spalls, or damaged sections of runway; crack-sealed approximately 10,000 linear feet of runway; built dirt-filled barriers, commonly called HESCOS; fixed bomb shelters; assisted with self-help living quarters improvements, such as building shelves to store uniforms and toiletries; and repaired B-huts, from doors to floors.

"Hooch-help is something extra we do here to help out the people assigned here and augment the contractors who can't get to all the jobs," said Air Force 2nd Lt. Lloyd Mangaroo, 455th CEF commander.

While making camp improvements, safety is a concern the 455th CEF has to take seriously. Something as typical as digging can be a harrowing experience, the result of decades of fighting throughout Afghanistan.

"There (are) lots of (unexploded ordnance) out there; the teams have to keep their eyes open for all kinds of hazards," explained Air Force Master Sgt. Charmaine Regelman, squadron superintendent.

Improving the base to reduce and even eliminate safety hazards when possible is another 455th CEF goal. The team has already poured concrete foundations for a supply storage facility, a vehicle maintenance ramp and an electronics storage shed. During the next few months, the squadron plans to improve the walkway from the entry control point to the base's main road, pour more concrete pads and foundations and pave several high-traffic areas, which will prevent vehicle damage and save maintenance money and time.

With all the improvements they are making to Bagram Air Base, especially the repairs on the flightline, the Airmen of the 455th CEF know that they have played important part in the safe takeoff and landing of every aircraft that touches down here. 



Ramadan Presents Solemn, Spiritual Time

AFGHANISTAN — The first day of the ninth lunar month signals the beginning of the “month of blessing,” the holiest time of the year for Muslims around the world. Ramadan, which begins Oct. 15, is a time of prayer, fasting and charity.

And for service members deployed to the Muslim country of Afghanistan, it is important to understand and be sensitive to the significance of this observance, said Chaplain (Capt.) Tom Yates, Task Force Victory chaplain. This is especially crucial for those who interact with Afghans on a daily basis during patrols in local cities or when interacting with local workers and residents on and around the many bases across the country.

During Ramadan, Muslims obey a strict fast in which nothing will pass their lips from sunrise to sunset. Even water is off-limits. This is significant to service members for two important reasons.

The first is that troops working closely with those observing the fast must pay closer attention to the fatigue and dehydration that often accompany the absence of food and water during the day, said Yates. “In an environment like this, you have to be very, very careful,” he said.

The second, and probably most vital, reason is that non-Muslims must remain sensitive by not eating and drinking in front of those fasting.

“Don’t stop in the city square and break out the MREs and have lunch,” said Yates. “In this case, you might not want to do that given the sensitivity that they’re not allowed to do that and you are... tempting them.”

The month-long observance of Ramadan is in recognition of the period in which Allah first revealed the verses of the Quran to Muhammad, who was believed by Muslims to be the final prophet. The Quran is a holy book of prayers and teachings that is very strictly followed by Muslims the world over, including those in Afghanistan.

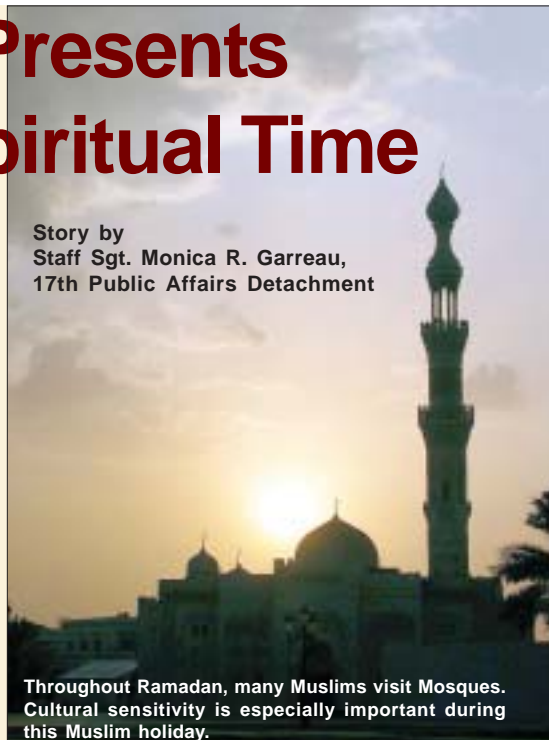
“We’re carrying on operations in an intensely religious nation,” said Yates. And remaining culturally sensitive “is important because it demonstrates the inclusiveness of the human family, and it acknowledges that we all have individual and personal religious preferences which we need to respect.”

Demonstrating support of religious preference shows people of all faiths that their religious devotion is respected, said Yates. “We, in fact, more than just tolerate it, we support it,” he said.

But it’s not just local nationals of the Mus-

Story by
Staff Sgt. Monica R. Garreau,
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Throughout Ramadan, many Muslims visit Mosques. Cultural sensitivity is especially important during this Muslim holiday.



lim faith who need support. There are numerous service members of Muslim faith, and they deserve as much respect and consideration as any one else.

“In the military, we have something called religious accommodation that says that a Muslim Soldier cannot be forced to eat during Ramadan,” said Yates. “Commanders are required to grant religious accommodation unless there is a hindrance to the mission.”

Leaders should identify which soldiers need this accommodation and plan accordingly, he said. Unit chaplains should

also be advising commanders on the proper ways of ensuring their soldiers have the opportunity to practice their faith, within the confines of mission accomplishment.

Although most Muslims will strictly follow the guidelines set forth during the month-long observance of Ramadan, Yates noted that some may not follow them as stringently. There are many who will simply more strictly observe the five daily calls to prayer. There are many reasons for the variation, such as employment restrictions, but the important thing is that they are afforded this opportunity.

“This 30-day period is a time of special focus or concentration on their faith,” said Yates. It is an opportunity for Muslims to worship and contemplate, taking the focus off their everyday lives and concerns.

Ramadan will conclude Nov. 14 with a celebratory feast and multiple charitable acts. And with Coalition members providing the proper courtesy during this holy time, Muslims will also be celebrating their ability to practice their religion without hindrance. **CB**





Another Great Contribution To World Peace



After establishment of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on 16 Jan 2002 Turkey contributed to ISAF with one infantry company and liaison officers in the ISAF Division and Brigade HQs.

On 29 April 2002 Turkey agreed to assume the lead of ISAF for a mandated term (22 June-22 Dec 2002) while retaining the same Infantry company mission and area of responsibility (AOR) in Kabul and surroundings. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1413 (UNSCR 1413) was released on 23 May 2002 and Turkey assumed the lead of ISAF-II on 20 June 2002 with 1350 personnel. At the same time, Kabul Airport was added to the Turkish Forces' AOR.

On 10 Feb 03 Germany and Holland took the lead of ISAF-III and Turkey handed over the mission to them. Turkey continued to contribute to ISAF-III with one Infantry Company and liaison officers in ISAF Division and Brigade HQs.



President Karzai with ISAF leadership at a recent award ceremony.

After taking the responsibility for the 4th phase from Germany-Holland, NATO took the lead for ISAF on 11 August 2003. Turkey's contribution to ISAF-IV was the same as before, staff elements to HQs and a company, totaling 140 personnel. The ISAF AOR has been expanded to all Afghanistan and establishment of provincial reconstruction teams (PRT) is still going on. Turkey has sent three helicopters and nine personnel to serve at Kabul International Airport during its ISAF-V term. The ISAF-VI term was started on 09 Aug 04 and will last until February 2005. Turkey's contribution is the same as ISAF-V, totaling 269 person-

Story and photos

by Col. Mehmet Adanali,
Turkish AF



Freshly trained Afghan Security soldiers.

nel. In February 2005 the Turkish 3rd Corps will takeover the lead for ISAF-VII.

Turkey continues to improve her military relations with other countries in order to contribute to international peace and stability. The purpose of those activities is not to create new alliances, but to increase the stability in the region through the participation and cooperation of all desiring countries.

Up to now, Turkey has signed military training and cooperation agreements with 45 nations. Turkey and the Turkish Armed Forces are very eager to contribute to international peace and stability within the framework of the Partnership for Peace (PFP).

Turkey does its best to share her experiences with Balkan, Caucasian, Eurasian and Middle Eastern countries. In this context, the Turkish PFP Training Center was established in Ankara in 1998. It is worth mentioning that the Turkish PFP training center was the first recognized PFP training center in NATO. It's obvious that the Turkish Armed Forces, through this

PFP Training Center, have contributed to peace and stability by developing common understanding and methodology.

Playing this important role as a 'bridge' between NATO and PFP Nations as well as between Asia and Europe, Turkey will continue to do her utmost to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of a more secure world.

Turkey follows a foreign policy based on the phrase of Atatürk: "Peace at Home, Peace Abroad", which aims at solving problems peacefully, stopping conflicts as soon as possible, and ensuring the settlement of a fair and comprehensive peace. As part of her traditional foreign policy, Turkey will continue to contribute to all peace support activities within her capabilities, in the future, as she has in the past. ^{CB}



Afghan locals welcome Turkish patrols.